

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

SESSION LAW 2011-303  
HOUSE BILL 805

AN ACT AMENDING THE NAME CHANGE STATUTE TO INCLUDE A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS BEFORE THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT MAY GRANT OR DENY A NAME CHANGE APPLICATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 101-5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 101-5. Clerk-Name change application requirements; grounds for clerk to order or deny name change; certificate and record.

(a) A person who desires to change his or her true name may apply to the clerk of superior court of the county where the person resides and must submit all of the following information to the clerk in support of the application for a name change:

- (1) The applicant's true name, county of birth, date of birth, the full name of parents as shown on birth certificate, and the name sought to be adopted.
- (2) The certified results of an official state and national criminal history record check.
- (3) A sworn statement as to the following:
  - a. That the applicant is a bona fide resident of, and domiciled in, the county where the change of name is sought.
  - b. Whether or not the applicant has outstanding tax or child support obligations.

(b) The clerk shall instruct the applicant on the process for having fingerprints taken and submitted for the criminal history record check, including providing information on law enforcement agencies or acceptable service providers. The clerk may require the applicant to provide any other information that the clerk determines is reasonably necessary for the fair and complete review of the name change application.

(c) The clerk shall review all the information contained in the application and otherwise available to the clerk to determine whether there is good and sufficient reason to grant or to deny the name change.

(d) If the clerk ~~thinks~~ finds that good and sufficient ~~reason exists~~ reasons exist for the change of name, and the applicant has met the requirements of subsection (a) of this section, it ~~shall be his~~ is the clerk's duty to issue an order changing the name of the applicant from ~~his~~ that person's true name to the name sought to be adopted. ~~Such~~ The order shall contain ~~the~~ all of the following:

- (1) The true name, the county of birth, the date of birth, the full name of parents as shown on birth certificate, and the name sought to be adopted.
- (2) The clerk's summary of the information reviewed in connection with the application.

~~He~~ The clerk shall issue to the applicant a certificate under ~~his~~ the clerk's hand and seal of office, stating the change made in the applicant's name, and shall also record ~~said~~ the application and order on the docket of special proceedings in his court. ~~He~~

(e) The clerk shall forward the order granting the name change ~~to~~ to:



(1) The State Registrar of Vital Statistics on a form provided by ~~him~~—the Registrar. If the applicant was born in North Carolina, the State Registrar shall note the change of name of the individual or individuals specified in the order on the birth certificate of that individual or those individuals and shall notify the register of deeds in the county of birth. If the applicant was born in another state of the United States, the State Registrar shall forward the notice of change of name to the registration office of the state of birth.

(2) The Division of Criminal Information at the State Bureau of Investigation, which shall update its records to show the name change.

(f) If the clerk finds that good and sufficient reasons exist to deny the applicant's request for a name change, it is the clerk's duty not to issue an order changing the name of the applicant from that person's true name to the name sought to be adopted. The order denying the name change shall state the reasons for the denial. If the applicant desires to appeal the clerk's decision, the applicant must petition the chief resident superior court judge within 30 days of the date of the order denying the name change to request a reconsideration of the application. The reconsideration decision of the chief resident superior court judge is final and not subject to appeal. An unsuccessful applicant on reconsideration is subject to a waiting period of 12 months from the date the adverse decision of the chief resident superior court judge before the applicant may submit another name change application. A successful applicant on reconsideration shall be granted the name change by the clerk in like manner as prescribed by subsection (d) of this section.

(g) Upon information obtained by the clerk of fraud or material misrepresentation in the application for a name change, the clerk on his or her own motion may set aside the order granting the name change after notice to the applicant and opportunity to be heard. If the clerk sets aside the name change order, the clerk shall notify the State Registrar of Vital Statistics and the Division of Criminal Information."

**SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

s/ Walter H. Dalton  
President of the Senate

s/ Thom Tillis  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
Governor

Approved 5:02 p.m. this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011